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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,682	09/25/2003	Masami Matsuura	243216US3 DIV	4417
22850	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAYO, TARA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/854,472, filed on 15 May 2001.

Specification

2. The prior objection to the Abstract has been overcome by the amended Abstract filed 08 December 2005.

Claim Objections

3. The prior objection to claim 11 has been overcome by the response filed 08 December 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The Examiner withdraws the prior rejection of claim 26 as the rejection was improperly made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claims 1 through 4, 11, 12, 14 through 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernier (U.S. Patent No. 4,004,536).

Bernier '536, as seen in Figures 23 and 24, a motion reduction apparatus for a floating body floating on water, said motion reduction apparatus comprising:

with regard to claim 1,

a plum plate (355) configured to be provided on at least on a side of a floating main body (359) and configured to be separated from the floating main body by a specific distance (as seen in Figure 24) and configured to extend beyond a lowermost bottom surface of the floating main body substantially in a vertical orientation;

with regard to claim 2,

wherein the plumb plate is configured to be supported at a specific location of the floating main body by means of a plurality of stay members (365) configured to be arranged on the floating main body in parallel so as to provide flow sections (375) between the stay members for flooding with incoming water;

with regard to claim 3,

wherein the floating main body is orthorhombic-shaped (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another), and the plumb plate is configured to be provided on at least a wavefront side section along a longitudinal direction of the floating main body;

with regard to claim 4,

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wherein the plumb plate is constructed so as to be vertically adjustable with respect to the floating main body (via springs 369);

with regard to claim 11,

a water surface plate (355) configured to be provided on a side section of a floating main body (359) having an orthorhombic shape (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another) and configured to extend within a plane substantially parallel to a water surface;

with regard to claim 12,

a plate member (355) configured to be provided on a side of a floating main body (359) disposed in such a way that an edge section of the plate member proximal to the floating main body is separated from the floating main body by a specific distance (as seen in Figure 24), wherein an upper edge (372) of the plate member is configured to be oriented at substantially a same level as a lowermost bottom surface of the floating main body;

with regard to claim 14,

wherein the plate member is configured to be supported at a specific location of the floating main body by a plurality of stay members (365) arranged in parallel on the floating main body so as to provide flow sections (375) between the stay members for flooding with incoming water;

with regard to claim 15,

wherein the floating main body is orthorhombic-shaped (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another), and the plate member is configured to be

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provided along a longitudinal direction at least on either a left side section or a right side section of the floating main body (as seen in Figure 24);

with regard to claim 16,

wherein the plate member is constructed so as to be vertically adjustable with respect to the floating main body (via springs 369); and

with regard to claim 26,

a floating body (359) and a motion reduction apparatus (355) according to claim 1.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 through 4, 11, 12, 14 through 16 and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

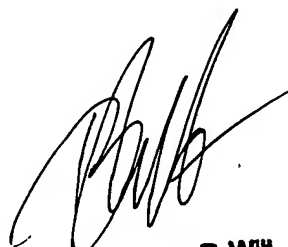
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Mayo whose telephone number is 571-272-6992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TLM

22 February 2006


Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600